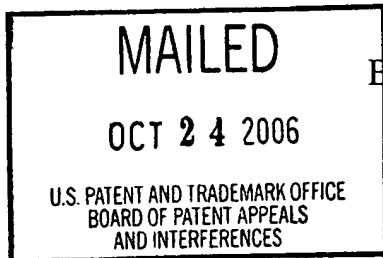


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

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Ex parte ANDREW D. BICEK and TIMOTHY S. GIRTON

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Application No. 10/058,640

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ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

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This application was received electronically at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on October 11, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matter requiring attention prior to docketing is identified below:

The Examiner's Answer mailed May 2, 2006 does not list the prior art of record being relied upon in the rejections. Page 3 of the examiner's answer contains a section heading titled "**(8) Evidence Relied Upon**" that states "[n]o evidence is relied upon by the examiner in the rejection of the claims under appeal"

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beneath it. The Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 1207.02(A) (8th ed., Rev. 3, August 2005) defines the above heading as follows:

**(8) Evidence Relied Upon.** A listing of the evidence relied on (e.g., patents, publications, admitted prior art), and, in the case of nonpatent references, the relevant page or pages.

As per the above, the prior art relied upon in the examiner's 35 USC § 102(b) and § 103(a) rejections (multiple U.S. Patents) should be listed under the "(8) Evidence Relied Upon" heading in the examiner's answer. Correction is required.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner

- a) to issue a revised Examiner's Answer listing the prior art of record being relied upon in the rejection(s) of the appealed claims, and
- b) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

By: G. P. Edger for Dale Shaw  
DALE M. SHAW  
Acting Chief Appeals Administrator  
(571) 272-9797

DMS/vsh

Application No. 10/058,640

cc: VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.  
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